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A DECLARATION To all the VVorld of our FAITH And what we believe who are called QUAKERS.

And this is vvritten that all people upon earth may know by vvhom, and hovv vve are ſaved, and hopes for eternall life, and vvhat vve believe concerning God, Chriſt, and the Spirit, and of the things that are eternal, appertaining to all mankind to know and believe.

Concerning God, Chriſt, and the Spirit, thus we believe.

FIrſt, That there is onely one true God, vvho is a Spirit, and his preſence filleth heaven and earth, and he is eternal and everlaſting, the Creator and Preſerver of all things; that Heaven and Earth, and all things therein, by him were framed and brought forth, and all things remain unto this day by his power, and whatſoever he willeth in Heaven and Earth, he brings to paſſe by his word and Power. And vve believe that this God onely is, and ought to be feared, loved, obeyed and worſhiped by all creatures, and no other thing beſides him in Heaven and Earth; and we believe, That his Worſhip, and Obedience, and Fear and Love, is to be given in ſpirit, even in what his own Spirit moveth and leadeth his people unto. And we believe his true worſhip, required and accepted of him, is not by the tradition of men, in outward obſervances, *or ſet dayes, or places*, but he is worſhiped onely in ſpirit & truth, without reſpect of time, places or things, and that none can worſhip him in righteouſneſſe

but his children who are born of his ſpirit, & are led and guided thereby. And we believe that this God hath given his Son Chriſt Jeſus into the World, a free-gift unto the whole World, and that every man that cometh into the VVorld is lighted by him, that every man might believe, and be ſaved. And we believe that he is given into the VVorld, & no Nation, Countrey or people excepted, but unto all mankind is he given of God, and hath lightned them, and every man through the VVorld, that believeth in, and receiveth Chriſt, who is the VViſdom and power of the Father, ſhall be ſaved with eternal ſalvation; and every one that believeth not in him, ſhall be damned and ſhall poſſeſſe everlaſting miſery. And we believe that *Salvation*, *Juſtification* and *Sanctification*, is onely in him, and wrought by him, and no other, for there is no other Name given under Heaven but him alone, by which ſalvation is; and we believe all that receives him, and believes in him, are reconciled to God, and are made alive to God, to live to him in all things, and doth receive the forgiveneſſe of ſins, & are ſet free from all unrighteouſneſs, and from the body of ſin and death, and hath the VVitneſs of the Spirit in them, and the Spirit of the Father they have received, and it witneſſeth in them of the Father and of the Son, and of the things that belong unto their peace; and it is the earneſt of the Inheritance, and the Seal of the promiſe of eternal life; and by it are the deep things of God revealed to mankind; and by it the Father & the Son dwells in the Saints; & by it have they fellowſhip one with another; and the Father, Son, and Spirit are one: And this we faithfully believe.

Again, Concerning Chriſt, VVe believe that he is one with the Father, and was with him before the world was; and what the Father worketh it is by the Son, for he is the Arm of Gods *Salvation*, and the very *power* and *Wiſdom* of the Creator, and was, is, and is to come, without beginning or end. And we believe that all the Prophets gave teſtimony of him, and that he was made manifeſt in *Judea* and *Jeruſalem*, and did the work of the Father, and was perſecuted of the

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Jews, and was crucified by his enemies & that he was buryed, & rose again, according to the Scriptures. And we believe he is now ascended on High, & exalted at the right hand of the Father for evermore; and that he is glorified with the same glory that he had before the world was; and that even the same that came down from Heaven, is ascended up to Heaven; and the same that descended, is he that ascended.

And we believe even he that was dead, is alive & lives for evermore; and that he cometh & shall come again to judge the whole world with righteousness, and all people with equity, and shall give to every man according to his deeds at the day of Judgement, when all shall arise to condemnation, or justification, he that hath done good shall receive life, and he that hath done evil, everlasting condemnation. And we believe he is to be waited for in spirit, to be known after the Spirit, as he was before the world was, and that is the knowledge unto eternal life; which all that believe in him doth receive; & he subdues death, and destroyes him that hath the power of it, and restoreth from death to life, and quickneth by his spirit all that the Father hath given him; and we believe such he justifieth and sanctifieth, & such are taught of him; but he condemns all that believe not, but continues in unbelief, and are not taught of him: And this we faithfully believe.

And we believe that unto all people upon the face of the whole earth, is a time and day of visitation given, that they may return and be saved by Christ Jesus, who is given of the Father to call the worst of men to repentance; and the most ungodly of sinners are convinced by him of their ungodly deeds, that they might believe, and be converted, and saved. And we beleive herein is the love of God manifested to all mankind, *and that none is shut out by him before they were born into the World*; but unto all men is a Visitation given, and they that do perish, it is because they do not believe in Christ; & destruction is of a mans self, but salvation is of God through believeing in his Son, who takes away sin, and reneweth into his own Image, that they may become Heirs

with him. And we believe that there is a Crown of eternal glory, and an Inheritance of eternal life to be injoyed for evermore by all that beleive and are choſen of God, and that there is an everlaſting miſery and deſtruction to be poſſeſſed by all that believe not, but continues in the ſtate of reprobation, and are not changed from the wayes of ſin & death, but walks after the wayes of their own hearts luſts, fulfilling the will of the fleſh, in the evil of this world, and followes not Chriſt the Light of the world, that they may be ſaved; and we believe upon all ſuch the wrath of God abideth, and that they have no part in the Inheritance of God. And we believe that it is onely he that is born again of the Spirit, and that walks after the Spirit, who is changed from death to life. and who is redeemed out of the world and all its wayes, ſuch onely muſt inherit the kingdom of God, and they onely have right thereunto, and none beſides, even they that are waſhed & clenſed from all unrighteouſneſſe by the blood of Jeſus, by which their ſins are remitted, for his blood clenſeth from all unrighteouſneſs and ſin, yea all ſuch that walk and abide in the light which Chriſt Jeſus hath lightned the world withall.

And we believe that the Saints upon Earth may receive forgiveneſſe of ſins, & may be perfectly freed from the body of ſin and death, and in Chriſt may be perfect, and without ſin, and may have Victory over all temptations, by faith in Chriſt Jeſus. And we believe every Saint that is called of God, ought to preſſe after perfection, and to overcome the Devil and all his temptations upon earth; and we believe they that faithfully waite for it ſhall obtain it, and ſhall be preſented without ſin in the Image of the Father, and ſuch walks not after the fleſh, but after the ſpirit, & are in covenant with God, & their ſins are blotted out & remembred no more; for they ceaſe to commit ſin, being born of the ſeed of God. And we believe the Goſpel of Chriſt is the power of God unto ſalvation, and that it ought to be preached *freely* unto all people, and Chriſt to be held forth to all mankind by the Miniſtery ſent of him. And we believe this Miniſtry

ſtry is received by the gift of the Holy Ghoſt, & all they that receive it, are lawfully called to the Miniſtry, and they may preach the Goſpel of Chriſt freely, as they have received it freely, & this Miniſtry is not of man, but of God, & is made powerful to the converting of ſinners, and to the bringing of people to God, & to the knowledge of his wayes. And we do not believe that any man is a Miniſter of Chriſt, without the gift of the Holy Ghoſt, or that the Goſpel can be received by naturall learning or education. And we believe ſuch as preach for hire, and hath hire for preaching, are not the lawful called Miniſters of the Goſpel of Chriſt, ſuch as are proud, and high-minded, and covetous men, who doth not profit the people at all; ſuch as have run, and never were ſent of Chriſt, Who calleth by his ſpirit into the Work of the Miniſtry, and as every one hath received the gift of that his ſpirit, ſo he may adminiſter to others.

Concerning Rulers and Governors, We believe that there ought to be Rulers and Governors in every Nation, City, Countrey, or Town, and they ought to be ſuch men as feareth God, and hateth every evil way, who will judge for God, and not for man, and will judge righteouſly, equally, and juſtly, and will give true and ſound judgement unto all men, without bribery, or reſpect of perſons, not regarding the rich above the poor, but being a praiſe unto all that do well, and a terror to all evil-doers whatſoever, having knowledge in the pure Law of God, & themſelves continually exerciſed therein. And we believe that every Law of man, ought to be grounded upon the Law of God, pure reaſon & equity being the foundation thereof, that Gods witneſſe in every man may anſwer to it; & the Law ought to be known unto all people before tranſgreſſion be charged or puniſhed in any man. And we believe that every tranſgreſſion ought to be puniſhed according to its nature, and that the puniſhment exceed not the greatneſſe of the tranſgreſſion; neither ought any tranſgreſſor to eſcape unpuniſhed, neither ought any upon falſe ſuſpition or jealouſies to be cauſed to ſuffer without the teſtimony of true men, or the confeſſion

ſeſſion of the party. And we believe that the executors of the Law ought to be juſt men, & not given to pride, drunkenneſs, or any other evil whatſoever, & ought to be choſen every year, or otherwiſe, by the conſent of the people; & that no man be ſtopped of his free choice; except juſtly taxed. And we believe that all Governors and Rulers ought to be accountable to the people, and to the next proceeding Rulers, for all their actions, which may be inquired into upon occaſion; and that the chiefeſt of the Rulers be ſubject under the Law, and puniſhable by it if they be tranſgreſſors, as well as the pooreſt of the people. And thus true Judgement and Juſtice will be brought forth in the earth, and all that do well will have praiſe, and live in reſt and peace, and all evil-doers whatſoever may ſtand in awe, and be afraid of God, and juſt men, and the execution of good Laws.

Concerning Religion; We believe that it is onely the ſpirit of the Lord that makes men truly religious, and that no man ought to be compelled to, or from any exerciſe to practiſe in Religion, by any outward Law or power, but every man ought to be left free, as the Lord ſhall perſwade his own mind in doing or leaving undone this, or the other practiſe in Religion; and every man of what profeſſion in Religion ſoever, ought to be protected in peace, provided himſelf be a man of peace, not ſeeking the wrong of any mans perſon or Eſtate.

And we believe that to reprove falſe Opinions, and unſound Doctrines and Principles, ſeeking to convince them that oppoſe themſelves, by exhortation, or ſharp reproof, by Word or Writing, ought not to be counted a breach of the Peace, or to ſtrive about the things of the Kingdom of God, by men of contrary minds or judgements, this ought not to be puniſhable by the Magiſtrates and their Laws; for we believe that the outward Law and powers of the earth is onely to preſerve mens perſons and eſtates, and not to preſerve men in Opinions; neither ought the Law of the Nation to be laid upon mens conſciences to bind them to, or from ſuch a judgement or practiſe in religion. And we believe that Chriſt

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is, and ought onely to be Lord and exercifer of mens conſciences; and his Spirit onely muſt lead into all truth.

And we believe that obedience & ſubjection in the Lord, belongs to Superiors, and that Subjects ought to obey them in the Lord that have Rule over them; and that Children ought to obey their Parents, and VVives their Husbands, & Servants their Maſters in all things, which is according to God, which ſtands in the exerciſe of a pure conſcience towards God: But where Rulers, Parents, or Maſters, or any other, commandeth or requireth ſubjection in any thing which is contrary to God, or not according to him, in ſuch cauſes all people are free, and ought to obey God rather then man; and we believe that herein God will juſtifie them, being guided and led by his ſpirit in all that which is good, and out of all that which is evil.

Again, VVe believe concerning Election & Reprobation, that there is a ſtate of Election, and a ſtate of Reprobation, a ſtate choſen of God, and a ſtate rejected of God, & that all mankind are in one of theſe ſtates; all that are elected, are elected in Chriſt; and all that are out of him, are in the ſtate reprobate, bringing forth fruits of death and darkneſs, being children of wrath and diſobedience, in the alienation & ſeparation from God, in the tranſgreſſion, unreconciled to God, the enmity ruling in the heart, being in the fall, and not reſtored to God again, but ignorant of his power, and of his wiſdom, having the underſtanding darkned, that they cannot ſee nor perceive the things that are eternal: and in this condition his beſt VVorks are ſin, and whatſoever he doth, he cannot be accepted with God, for he is dead to God, and alive to all evil, bringing forth all his works out of that ground which is curſed. This is the condition of all mankind upon the face of the Earth, in the firſt *Adam*; and this is the ſtate of reprobation, and all that abide herein, are rejected of God, and ſhall never inherit eternal life, but goes into perdition; yet have all ſuch a day of viſitation, that they may return out of the ſtate of reprobation; but hating knowledge, and deſpiſing the love of God, they continue in

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the ſtate reprobate & the wrath of God abides upon them: But they that are choſen of God, are deliver ed from wrath, for they believe in the light, and becomes children of the light, and are renewed in mind and heart, and receiveth the love of the Father, and becometh planted into Chriſt the ſecond *Adam*, and are choſen in him to bring forth fruit unto the Father, and all their fruit ſpringeth from that ground which is Bleſſed for they are led by the Spirit of the Father, and ſuch are in the ſtate of election who are made Heirs with Chriſt of the everlaſting Inheritance that never fades away: And this we faithfully believe, that mercy is not ſhewed to the reprobate, nor judgement to them that are choſen of God.

And it is to go abroad in the world, that all people may underſtand what we believe, & what we have received of God; & they that believe this, and walk therein, by the Spirit of the Father ſhall be ſaved; but they that believe not, but are diſobedient to the truth, ſhall be condemned becauſe they do not believe. Much more might be written, but in ſhort, this is given forth by one that hath believed and received the knowledge of theſe things from God; A friend unto all people,

Edward Burrough.

THE END.

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